(c) As on 1-4-1998, the distributorship has 3930 number of customers and all of them have been issued the Subscription Vouchers.

Survey to determine backwardness in Tripura

2563. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose fresh survey in Tripura to determine the level of backwardness in the State: and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Tripura is, however, one of the States covered under all-India surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in their various rounds, the last such surveys (54th round - January to June, 1998) was on Use of Common Property Resources, Sanitation and Hygiene & Services' and on 'Consumer expenditure and Employment & Unemployment'.

Increase in the allocations for MPLAD Fund

2564. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to double the amount of MPLAD Fund i.e making it to Rs. 2 crores;

(b) if so, by when an announcement is expected; and

(c) by when Government plan to reimburse the interest amount to the MP's fund in regard to amount paid late in the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Some MPs have requested for enhancing funds under MPLADS from Rs. 1 crore to 2 crores. The request is under consideration. However, no decision has been taken by the Govt, in this regard so far. The funds are released to the MPs with reference to the actual progress achieved in expenditure and execution of works. Hence the question of payment of interest to the delayed releases does not arise.

Enhancement of Sub-hirl plan budgetary provision of Assam

2565. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for enhancement of Sub-hill plan budgetary provision of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Sub-Plan for Designated Hill Areas of Assam includes flow from State Plan and Special Central Assistance (SCA) under Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP). SCA under HADP is distributed amongst the Designated Hill Areas on the basis of area and population giving equal weightage to each these variables. The Union Budget for 1998-99 has proposed an enhanced allocation of Rs. 390 crore for Hill Areas Development Programme against Rs. 352